

law our efforts to eliminate the marriage tax penalty, to get the job done this year.

I want to extend the invitation to my colleagues to join with us to eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTIONS

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the first time to address the 107th Congress. Representing southeast Texas has been an honor and a privilege, and I look forward to two more years of service.

My grandson Nicholas joined me at the swearing-in ceremony this year and that was great; but unfortunately, there are many grandparents and parents who have not been so lucky and do not have the opportunity to share their lives with their children and grandchildren.

During my first year in office, I founded the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus in response to the abduction and murder of a 12-year-old girl in Friendswood, Texas. The devastation felt by her family and the determination of the volunteers who searched for her inspired me to found this caucus, which includes 138 members and provides a loud and unified voice for missing children within Congress.

Mr. Speaker, as we begin the first session of the 107th Congress, I ask my colleagues who are not already members of the caucus to join me and to encourage those who are already members to continue fighting with me for our children and for our families. Let us work together as parents, grandparents, and Members of Congress to keep our children safe.

BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER TREATMENT ACT

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, last Congress the passage of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act was a huge victory for women across our Nation. This legislation gives every State the option of providing lifesaving treatment to low-income women who have been diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through the early detection screening program.

I congratulate the governor of my home State, Florida, Jeb Bush, who recognized the great benefits of this program early on. Governor Bush included almost \$13 million in his budget to provide cancer treatment to low- and moderate-income women. I hope that the governors and legislators in every State follow the example of our governor, Jeb Bush, and help give women a fighting chance at beating this treacherous disease.

I especially congratulate Jane Torres, Teresa Moran-Menendez, and all of the members of the Florida Breast Cancer Coalition who lobbied and worked tirelessly to make this happen. On behalf of Florida's women, I thank Governor Jeb Bush.

WHITE HOUSE WAS NOT THE ONLY AMERICAN INSTITUTION THAT WAS TRASHED

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, graffiti on the walls, furniture destroyed, doors glued shut, garbage in refrigerators. Sounds like Animal House, but I am talking about the Clinton White House. Now if that is not enough to wax your windows, former President Clinton has said, and I quote, he wants "a complete and thorough investigation into this crime at the White House." Beam me up. This is the same President that wanted no investigation into Chinese Communist cash being funneled to the Democrat National Committee, and we let him get away with it. Unbelievable.

Mr. Speaker, the White House was not the only American institution that was trashed. The Clinton administration not only trashed, they shredded our Constitution.

I yield back the garbage at the former Clinton White House.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXTREMISTS DRIVE UP COST OF UTILITIES

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, if people wonder why their utility bills have gone up so much lately, they need look no further than the environmental groups. Environmentalists protest and stop or delay and thus drive up the costs every time a company tries to produce more natural gas, coal, oil or lumber. As a recent column by Thomas Sowell pointed out, these groups have stopped California from building any new power plants for over a decade. Many lower-income and senior citizens are now having to choose between eating or paying their utility bills. Most of the, quote, credit for this belongs to environmental extremists. If our leaders do not soon realize how left-wing most environmentalists have become, it will soon wreck our economy.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, because I represent the home jurisdiction of the

United States Congress, I want to personally welcome new Members of the House and my friends and colleagues from past years. Many of them will spend more of their time here than they will in their own home district. They should know something about the city, and there is a Dear Colleague coming to them which they may find useful.

The city has rapidly revitalized. After a period of financial crisis, it was the only city that had to carry State, county, and municipal functions. Ultimately, it had to have a control board like the boards they had in New York and Philadelphia and Cleveland and other cities, but on Monday after 4 years of balanced budgets and surpluses, indeed the end of the control period was announced 2 years ahead of time. We have been witnessing not only financial revival but the complete overhaul of services, enormous progress. The front page of the Washington Post talks about some of that progress today. If Members have service problems in their own home or in their own neighborhood, I hope they will be in touch with my office.

EVERY CHILD SHOULD HAVE A FIRST-CLASS EDUCATION

(Mr. FERGUSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, as a former teacher, I believe that our most profound responsibility is to ensure that every child has a first-class education, that no child is left behind, and that all students can share in the pride and promise of educational opportunity. That is why I am so pleased with the bipartisan support education reform is receiving from my colleagues in the House and in the Senate.

It is important that we continue to put our children above politics. I believe that while we call for higher standards, we must also provide schools with both the funding and the flexibility that they need to succeed. Flexibility is a key to success. After all, the needs of schools in Green Brook and Warren, towns in my district in New Jersey, are different from the needs of schools in Green Bay and in Wichita.

Targeting resources to local priorities will ensure that dollars reach the programs that need them the most, such as hiring new teachers to reduce class size, expanding charter schools and funding for new school construction.

I commend our President and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for advocating common sense education reforms that, if enacted, will strengthen our public schools and make sure that no child is left behind. After all, our children are our country's most precious resource.